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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : American Embassy, Tripoli

443
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

June 28, 1956
DATE

REF :

	ACTION	DEPT.
For Dept. Use Only	NEA-4	INFO RMIA-2 OAI-6 USMA-1 ICA-10 L-2 NSC-2
	REC'D 7-3	OTHER LIA-7 OSD-4 AFMIX-4 NAVY-3 AIA-3

SUBJECT: U. S. Military Assistance to Libya

There is attached hereto a copy of a self-explanatory exchange of Notes between the Embassy and the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning certain information desired by the United States Military Survey Team which visited Tripoli recently in connection with the United States proposal to assist the Libyan Government to expand the Libyan Army to the extent of one thousand men.

A copy of the Ministry's Note has been forwarded to CINCEUR, Paris for Colonel Charles N. Hunter, Survey Team Chief.

For the Ambassador:

Rodger P. Davies
Counselor of Embassy

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CTC/MR
REVIEWED BY: J.M.Razi DATE: May 6,1982

cc: Benghazi

Enclosures:
1. Note Verbale No. 212
2. Note Verbale No. 469/Ha/6

Dept. please pass copy to Cairo for Military Attache.

DEPT OF STATE
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1956 JUL 5 AM 11 03

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The action office must return this permanent record copy to D/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

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No. 212

NOTE VERBALE

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom of Libya and has the honor to refer to the Note of April 4, 1956 from Ambassador John L. Tappin to His Excellency, Mustafa Ben Halim, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and in particular to Paragraph (7) of that Note which reads as follows:

"(7) The United States Government is prepared between July 1, 1956, and June 30, 1957, subject to legislative action by the Congress, to assist the Libyan Government to expand the Libyan Army to the extent of one thousand men by providing such equipment as may be considered necessary after a United States military survey team has evaluated its requirements; and the United States Government is sympathetic with Libya's future needs in relation to internal security and will hope to continue to cooperate in this field."

As the Ministry is doubtless aware, the United States Military Survey Team, referred to above, arrived in Tripoli on June 11 and met with His Excellency, the Minister of Defense on the same date. Subsequent contacts have also been made with appropriate officers of the Libyan Army. On Saturday, June 16, the Survey Team met with representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the Libyan Army to discuss a number of essential questions as listed in the attached letter of June 14, 1956 from the Charge d'Affaires of the American Embassy to Brigadier General Abd al-Qadir Muhammad al-Nazimi. The Libyan representatives were able to provide the desired information on most of these questions but stated that items (E) and (L) and items (I) and (K), insofar as these latter items were not within their competence, would require the comment of higher officials of the Government of Libya. With respect to Item (K), the Libyan representatives were not able to estimate the ability of the Libyan Government to procure and train the additional officer personnel required by the expansion of the present strength of the Libyan Army by 1,000 personnel.

The Survey Team will leave Tripoli for Paris on June 20 and will complete and despatch their report to Washington headquarters within five days thereafter. Because of the requirements of United States legislation and because the United States budget for fiscal year 1956/57 is in its final stage of preparation, it is most urgent that the answers to these questions be included in the Survey Team's report. The Ministry is therefore urgently requested to supply this information to the Embassy in writing not later than June 24, 1956.

The Embassy avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the assurance of its highest consideration.

American Embassy,
Tripoli, June 16, 1956.

TCAdams/lva

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UNITED KINGDOM OF LIBYA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
NO. 469/Ha/6

NOTE VERBALE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom of Libya presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Libya and has the honor to refer to the Embassy's Note No. 212 of June 16, 1956 regarding supplying and arming one thousand Libyan soldiers during the American fiscal year from July 1, 1956 to June 30, 1957. The Ministry has the pleasure, in response to the desire of the esteemed Embassy, to reply to the questions listed in the letter addressed by the Charge' d'Affaires of the Embassy to the Chief of Staff of the Libyan Army: -

In reply to the first question (a)

The duty of the Libyan Army is to maintain internal security and to protect the frontiers of the Kingdom. It is essential that the Army should be constituted of mechanized Infantry troops supported by Artillery and tanks in view of the wide area of the country.

In reply to the second question (b)

The number of troops required to perform the duties referred to in the above mentioned paragraph (a) cannot be decided at the present time because this is related to the number of inhabitants in the Kingdom, the cultural standard in it, its vast area and also depends upon a factor more important than them - the money.

However any expansion which may be effected in the Libyan Army in the future will be accommodated in the available barracks in Libya.

In reply to the third question (c)

The desired expansion at the present time is to expands the army to the strength of a complete mechanized Infantry Brigade Group (RCT) supported by the necessary arms.

There is a deficit in the present allotments of the Army amounting to sixty different vehicles, the cost of which is estimated at sixty thousand pounds (£L 60,000). The Libyan Government requests the covering of this deficit in addition to the required funds to supply and arm the one thousand soldiers.

In reply to the fourth question (d)

The extent of the training assistance desired from the United States of America is estimated at ten thousand pounds to meet the cost of the number which the British Training Mission will need following the equipping and arming of the one thousand soldiers. This sum was estimated by the Chief of the British Military Mission to the Libyan Army.

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COPY

American Embassy,
Tripoli, Libya,
June 14, 1956

Sir:

With reference to the 10 o'clock meeting on Saturday, June 16 between the Ministry of Defense, the Libyan Army, and the United States Military Survey Team, I am informed by Colonel Hunter that under the terms of reference furnished him he must develop the views of the responsible Libyan authorities on the following aspects:

(A) Appropriate missions for the Libyan Armed Forces.
(B) Forces required to accomplish missions cited (A) above.
(C) Assistance required for Forces, in (B) above, to be furnished by the United States or the United Kingdom.
(D) Extent and nature of training assistance to be furnished by the United Kingdom and/or the United States.
(E) Libyan financial capability and willingness to support the existing Libyan Army now in being and to include the contemplated expansion of one thousand men.
(F) Suitability of existing Tables of Organization and Equipment for existing and any expansion of the Libyan Army.
(G) List of equipment on hand for existing units of the Army and established reserve stocks.
(H) List of equipment deficiencies for existing units of the Army.
(I) Type Forces desired for proposed expansion of one thousand men.
(J) Libyan ability to maintain and utilize any equipment furnished for the proposed one thousand man expanded Forces.
(K) Estimate of ability to raise and train the required man-power for the expanding Force.
(L) With the decrease of the Provincial Police responsibilities due to contemplated expansion of the Libyan Army will the budget requirements for the Provincial Police Forces be reduced in direct proportion so that increased funds will be available for the Libyan Army over those in current budget programs?

It would be appreciated if the appropriate officers of the Libyan Army and Ministry could come to discuss these topics.

Very truly yours,

Rodger P. Davies
Charge' d'Affaires a.i.

Brigadier General
Abd al-Qadir Muhammad al-Nazimi,
C. O. S. Libyan Army,
Tripoli.

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As regards the Iraqi training elements in the Libyan Army, this comes within the allocation of this Army.

In reply to the fifth question (e)

The budget was estimated specifically to cover the present force of the Libyan Army and it is not possible for the Libyan Government to support financially the one thousand soldiers added to the present force. It is hoped that supplying and arming the one thousand soldiers includes supporting them at least for a few years until the Libyan Government is able to take this upon itself from its own resources.

In reply to the sixth question (f)

The Military Committee of the Libyan Army submitted to Colonel Hunter, Chief of the American Military Mission all the schedules concerning the organizing of:

(a) A mechanized Infantry Regiment.
(b) Two Artillery Batteries (6 guns of 25 pounds caliber in each).
(c) Headquarters for an Artillery Regiment.
(d) Headquarters for a mechanized Infantry Brigade Group.
(e) Schedules of the costs of the above mentioned units.

This is in respect to the one thousand soldiers to be added to the present force in the Libyan Army.

The currently existing force consists of the following:

(a) Two mechanized Infantry Regiments.
(b) An Artillery Battery of 6 guns of 25 pounds caliber.
(c) Armored Company.
(d) Recruits Training Center.
(e) Headquarters of the General Staff.
(f) A Military Band.

All the allocations of the above mentioned units were submitted to Colonel Hunter.

In reply to the seventh question (g)

Supply of the necessary materials to the above mentioned units of the Libyan Army at its present strength is guaranteed for the present fiscal year.

In reply to the eighth question (h)

The presently existing shortage is about 60 (sixty) vehicles as has been explained in the reply to the third question, paragraph (c).

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In reply to the ninth question (i)

This has been detailed in reply to the above mentioned sixth question, paragraph (f).

The reply to the tenth question (j) has been included in the reply to the above mentioned fifth question, paragraph (e).

In reply to the eleventh question (k)

The training elements have been explained in the reply to the fourth question, paragraph (d). In addition to this the possibilities are available at present in the Libyan Army to train the one thousand recruits.

In reply to the twelfth question (l)

The existance of police forces in the three provinces at the present level is essential in many respects because the Libyan Army has not yet been expanded. When the Army is completely formed and armed and assumes its defense duties, the status of the police force will be considered together with the possibility of reducing it in accordance with the internal requirements of the country.

The Embassy will learn from reading the above mentioned replies that they answer the questions raised by the American Military Mission before the Military Committee of the Libyan Army and the representatives of the Ministry of Defense in the course of discussing matters relating to the supply and armament of the one thousand soldiers. They also contain the reply to the four queries mentioned in the Embassy's note on which the representatives of the Libyan side were unable to express their views during the discussions.

While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hastens to supply the esteemed Embassy with these data in response to its request mentioned in the last paragraph of its note referred to in the fore part of this Note Verbale, the Ministry avails itself of this opportunity, etc.....

Tripoli, June 25, 1956

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TRIPOLI

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